

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of PIUS GRUENENFELDER ET AL.

Serial No.: 08/902,331

Group Art Unit: 1753

Filed: JULY 29, 1997

Examiner: G. CANTELMO

For: MAGNETRON ATOMIZATION SOURCE AND METHOD OF USE THEREOF

REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.115

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

The following is responsive to the Office Action dated  
April 18, 2000.

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1700

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claim 44 as follows:

44. (Twice Amended) Circular target body for a magnetron source, the target body comprising a cylinder-body with a central opening, one end face of said body being symmetrically concavely tapered towards the axis of said cylindrical body through said opening to thereby define a new atomization surface,  $F_1$ , in the form of a concave, substantially bell-shaped sputtering surface, a backside of said body being formed by a flat annular outer ring-surface and an inwardly recessed flat circular center surface, an amount of taper  $d_0$  being defined by

$$0.2 r_1 \leq d_0 \leq 0.54 r_1$$

wherein  $r_1$  is the radius of said cylindrical body.